

## **ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

What is disclosed is a user interface metaphor for grouping and organizing documents on a desktop while they are still in use or until a final organizational structure is chosen. The present invention allows them to be grouped and organized, yet remain individually accessible within the limited  
5 screen real-estate that is typically available. Therein, documents are collected in virtual piles that are built by dragging and dropping document icons on top of each other to form a pile. Icons not on the top of the pile are represented by line segments of varying widths, lengths, and colors indicating document size, type, priority, etc.. The method replaces the typical icons with lines of varying  
10 dimensions, colors and patterns that can be stacked together into a compact virtual pile. If the mouse is rolled over the line segment representing one of the documents, the full name of the document would be displayed.